

# 4 | Asia



PHOTO: MYANMAR, FLOODING CAUSED BY TYPHOON YAGI. © WFP/PHOTOLIBRARY

While rainfall created favourable growing conditions in some areas, floods and landslides in Pakistan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Bangladesh damaged crops, infrastructure and livelihoods.

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In Myanmar, heightened levels of violence and displacement have led to a sharp increase in the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity since 2023.

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Despite signs of economic recovery in some countries, soaring rice prices due to El Niño-reduced rice production in key exporting countries, and India's rice export bans, curtailed purchasing power. Afghanistan faced economic stagnation, worsened by restrictions on women in the workforce.

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Three countries had a nutrition crisis – Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar). Myanmar was a nutrition concern.

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In 2025, the projected, modest economic growth is likely to be eclipsed by increasing global economic tensions and the impact of La Niña on agricultural production. The devastating March 2025 earthquake in Myanmar is likely to exacerbate a food crisis that was already deteriorating due to conflict.

# Asia

Afghanistan | Bangladesh | Myanmar | Pakistan | Timor-Leste | Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Bangladesh became the region's largest food crisis due to the combined effects of widespread floods, political unrest and economic difficulties as well as the expansion of analysis coverage. Afghanistan showed a significant improvement since 2023 but remained highly fragile amid economic stagnation, while escalating conflict in Myanmar sharply increased the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

## 65.9M



people or 29% of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024 in five countries with food crises. No data were available for Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## 11.9M



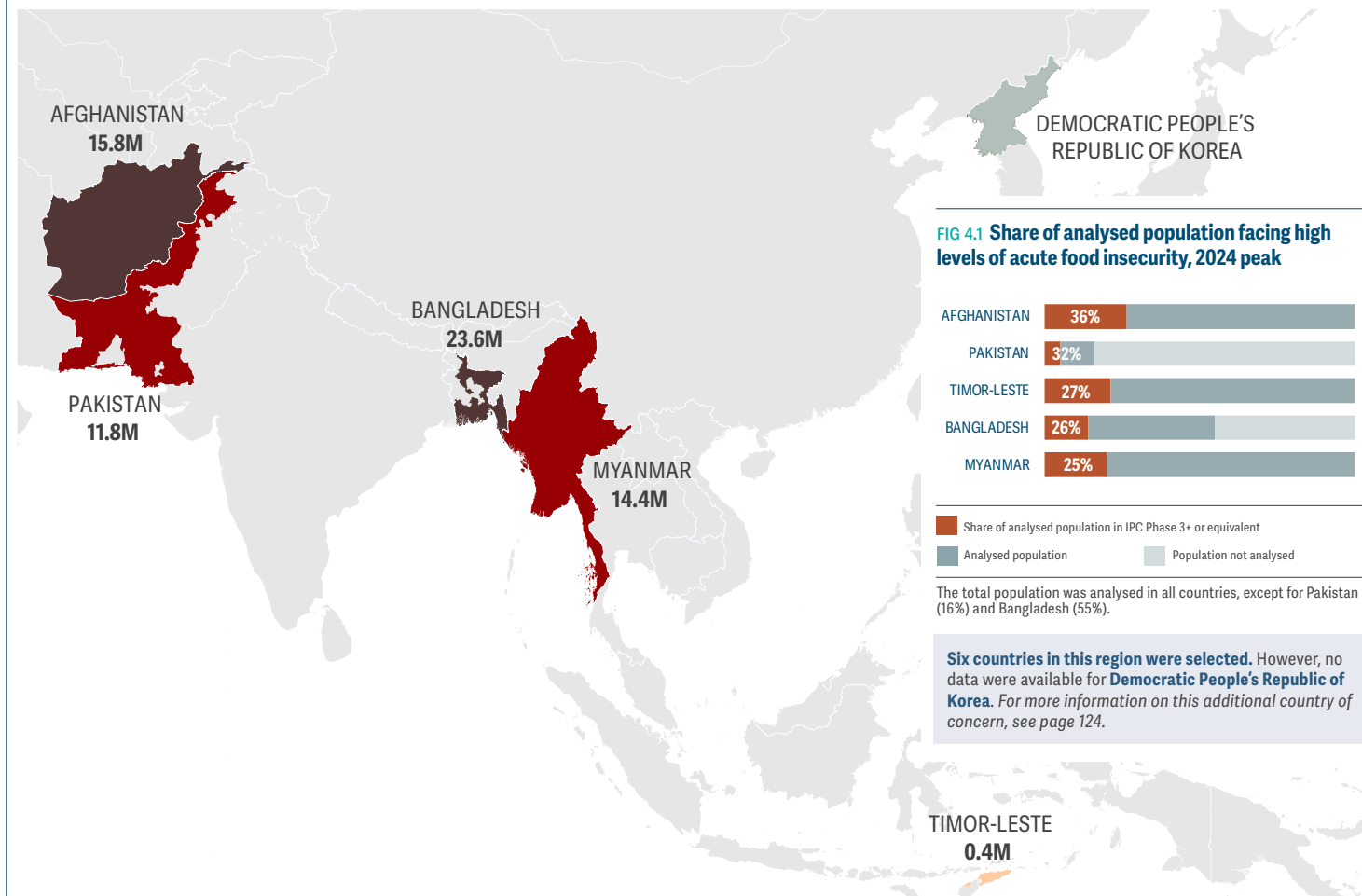
forcibly displaced people in four countries with food crises in 2024 – consisting of 9.1 million IDPs and 2.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers.

## 5.6M



acutely malnourished children in three countries with food crises in 2024. Of them, 1.5 million were suffering the most severe form of acute malnutrition.

MAP 4.1 Numbers of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in five countries, 2024 peak



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

<1.0 million 1–2.99 million 3–4.99 million 5–9.99 million 10–14.99 million ≥15 million Not selected for analysis No data/data not meeting GRFC technical requirements

Source: IPC TWGs; Myanmar pre-analysis conducted under the HNRP, as a basis for generating results for the 2025 projection used by the Myanmar HNRP 2025.



## How have the food crises in this region changed since 2023?

The share of analysed population (29 percent) facing high levels of acute food insecurity was marginally lower than 2023 (30 percent), as large increases in Myanmar occurred alongside improvements in Afghanistan. The analysis for Bangladesh was not comparable due to variations in geographic coverage and Pakistan has had the same analysis since 2023. Timor-Leste is included due to the effects of widespread flooding and Sri Lanka was deselected because the country did not meet new GRFC inclusion criteria.

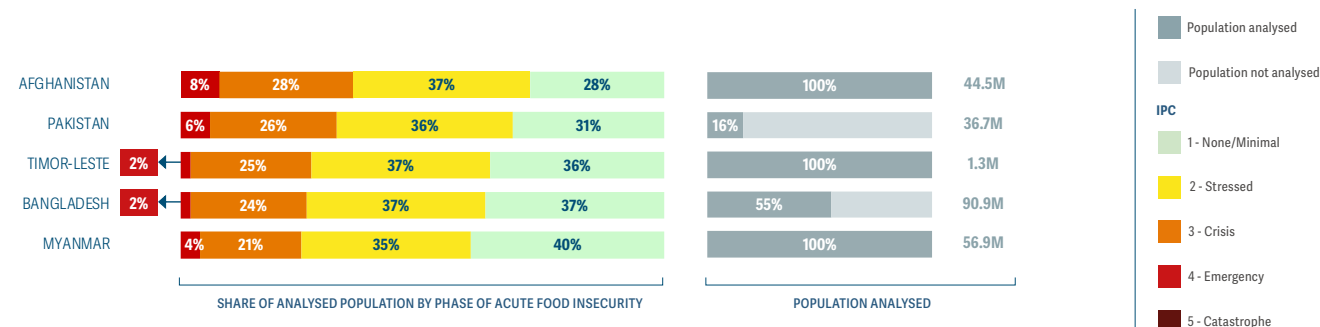
**Bangladesh** was Asia's largest food crisis, accounting for 36 percent of the regional population facing high levels of acute food insecurity. This was due to a more than twofold increase in the share of population analysed, from 23 percent to 55 percent, as well as the combined effects of widespread floods, political unrest and economic difficulties. Around 23.6 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity from October to December 2024, above projected levels for the lean season, as the projection analysis was conducted before the landfall of Cyclone Remal and the occurrence of widespread floods.

**Afghanistan** saw continued and significant improvement, with 15.8 million people or 36 percent of the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity during the winter lean season from November 2023 to March 2024. This included a notable decrease in the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), by 2.5 million since 2023.

High levels of acute food insecurity further increased in **Myanmar**, from 10.7 million people in September–October 2023 to 14.4 million people during the same period in 2024. IDPs and Rohingya refugees were particularly affected (OCHA, June 2024).

Although **Timor-Leste** was not included in the GRFC 2024 as having a food crisis in 2023,

FIG. 4.2 Share of analysed population by phase of acute food insecurity, 2024 peak



Source: IPC TWGs; Myanmar pre-analysis conducted under the HNRP, as a basis for generating results for the 2025 projection used by the Myanmar HNRP 2025.

comparison with the previous IPC analysis indicates that the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity increased in 2024. This was driven by food inflation and drought-like conditions, which has led to a 5 percent increase since 2023, with around 0.36 million people or 27 percent of the population experiencing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) from May to September 2024, outside of the lean season.

The peak for 2024 in **Pakistan** remained the same as in 2023, with 11.8 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity between November 2023 and January 2024. Although not comparable with the 2024 peak due to changes in population coverage, high levels of acute food insecurity persisted between November 2024 and March 2025, with 11 million people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

While the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** was also selected for inclusion in the GRFC 2025, no data on the acute food insecurity situation were available.

## Severity of acute food insecurity

### 9.8 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) across five countries.

Despite a reduction of 2.5 million people in IPC Phase 4 since 2023, **Afghanistan** continued to have the largest population in this phase in Asia, both in terms of absolute numbers (3.6 million people) and in terms of prevalence (8 percent).

In **Myanmar**, around 2.3 million people were in Emergency (equivalent to IPC Phase 4), up from 1.4 million in the previous year.

In **Pakistan**, 2.2 million people were in this phase, followed by 1.6 million in **Bangladesh**. In both countries, IPC Phase 4 levels of acute food insecurity were especially widespread in flood-affected districts.

In **Timor-Leste**, 0.02 million people were in this phase.

### 56.1 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) across five countries.

Across the five countries, 21–28 percent of the analysed population were in this phase, with **Afghanistan** having the highest share of population in IPC Phase 3 of any country in the

region. **Bangladesh** had the region's largest number of people in IPC Phase 3, with 21.9 million, followed by **Afghanistan** with 12.3 million people. In **Myanmar**, 12 million people were in the equivalent of IPC Phase 3, an increase of 2.7 million people compared to 2023. In **Pakistan**, 9.6 million were in this phase, and 0.3 million in **Timor-Leste**.

### 83.6 million people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) across five countries.

Across the five countries, 35–37 percent of the analysed populations experienced IPC Phase 2 levels of acute food insecurity, with the largest number of people in this phase in **Bangladesh**, at 33.4 million.

Around 19.9 million people faced the equivalent of IPC Phase 2 in **Myanmar**. **Afghanistan** had 16.4 million in this phase, an increase of 2 million people, likely as a result of improvements in IPC Phase 3 or above. In **Pakistan** and **Timor-Leste**, 13.4 million and 0.5 million people were in IPC Phase 2, respectively.

## Drivers of food crises in the region, 2024



**Weather extremes were the primary driver of acute food insecurity in three countries, notably Bangladesh, Pakistan and Timor-Leste, where 35.8 million people experienced high levels of acute food insecurity.**

The region was significantly impacted by climate events such as the El Niño and emerging La Niña by the end of 2024, with varying effects on agricultural production.

While above-average rainfall supported agricultural production in **Pakistan**, abnormally heavy monsoon rains from July to September resulted in flooding and landslides in parts of Balochistan and Sindh provinces, causing localized crop losses and damage to housing and agricultural infrastructure (FAO-GIEWS, September 2024). Agricultural recovery remained uneven, as regions affected by the 2022 floods continued to struggle with limited access to inputs, livestock losses and economic constraints (IPC, May 2024).

Severe flooding and landslides also affected the northwest, southeast and Rakhine state in **Myanmar**, and resulted in widespread destruction of crops, farmlands and livestock in August and September 2024 (WFP, September 2024).

While above-average precipitation provided favourable conditions for crop development in parts of **Afghanistan**, all 34 provinces were affected by weather extremes and natural disasters in 2024, causing destruction and damage of shelter and infrastructure (OCHA, December 2024).

From mid-2024, Cyclone Remal, flash floods and riverine floods severely impacted agricultural production in southern **Bangladesh**, while unprecedented flooding in the eastern region caused similar disruptions, affecting crops, livestock and food stocks across multiple districts. Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district were also affected (OCHA, September 2024; IPC, November 2024).

In **Timor-Leste**, below-average rainfall and high temperatures negatively impacted crop production in early 2024, followed by La Niña-induced excessive rainfall causing landslides (WFP, March 2024; IPC, February 2024).



**Conflict/insecurity continued to be the primary driver of acute food insecurity in Myanmar, where almost a quarter of the total population, 14.4 million people, were facing high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season from September to October 2024.**

Escalating conflict in **Myanmar** especially affected Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states and expanded to Mandalay and Sagaing regions, the most populated areas of the country (OCHA, December 2024). Displacement continued to rise, with 870 000 people newly displaced in 2024, amounting to 3.2 million people displaced since February 2021 (UNHCR, December 2024). The heightened levels of violence and displacement severely impacted availability of and access to food. Hostilities and movement restrictions destroyed and disrupted agricultural livelihoods and caused significant increases in food and fuel prices, with the highest year-on-year increase in the cost of the basic food basket reported in August in Rakhine, at 108 percent (WFP, September 2024).

Increasing hostilities in Rakhine state resulted in the influx of over 65 000 people to the Cox's Bazar camp in neighbouring **Bangladesh**, straining camp capacities amid growing violence and insecurity (UNHCR, January 2025; ACLED, December 2024).

Bilateral relations between **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan** remained strained, amid continued insecurity in provinces along the border and disrupted cross-border trade. Over 0.3 million Afghans returned to Afghanistan in 2024 following the September 2023 announcement by Pakistan authorities that they would be deporting undocumented Afghans (International Crisis Group, January 2024; UNCHR, December 2024).



**Economic shocks were the primary driver of acute food insecurity in Afghanistan, where nearly 15.8 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity.**

Despite signs of economic recovery in some countries, economic stressors persisted across the region in 2024. Rice prices in Asia reached 15-year highs in mid-2024 due to a combination of El Niño-reduced rice production in key exporting countries, such as Thailand and Viet Nam, India's rice export bans and supply chain disruptions. These factors affected prices across the region, exacerbated by high import dependency in many countries (WFP, September 2024).

After major political and economic crises in 2022 and 2023 and subsequent economic decline in **Pakistan**, general elections in February 2024, the formation of a coalition government and an IMF bailout package in September brought some relief to the political and economic instability that had contributed to high inflation rates (WB, October 2024). Double-digit inflation rates in early 2024 had eased by the end of the year; however, poverty and unemployment rates remained high in both countries, with many poor households facing challenges in accessing food. Prices remained high in **Bangladesh**, with rice prices increasing by almost 17 percent between October 2023 and 2024.

While prices, including for basic food commodities, continued to decrease in **Afghanistan** in 2024, economic stagnation and widespread

unemployment continued to limit households' purchasing power, especially in urban areas, compounded by the return of over 2 million Afghans from Pakistan and Iran (WFP, November 2024). The Afghan economy is projected to lose 5 percent of its GDP annually by excluding women from the workforce, and the equivalent of two-thirds of today's GDP by 2066 if the suspension of women's access to higher education remains in place (UNESCO, October 2024).

## Acute food insecurity since 2016

**A lack of systematic and consistent data limits a thorough analysis over time for the Asia region, as the number of countries selected for analysis and with acute food insecurity data meeting GRFC technical requirements has varied significantly across the nine editions of the GRFC.**

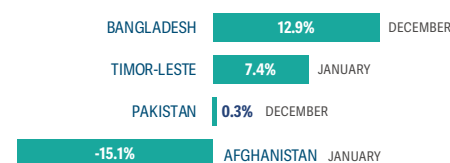
Only Afghanistan and parts of Bangladesh have been included in each edition of the GRFC since 2016.

**Afghanistan** has consistently been one of the ten countries with the largest numbers and prevalence of high levels of acute food insecurity. The situation has gradually improved after reaching the worst in GRFC history following the 2021 political transition and economic crisis, with almost 23 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) from November 2021 to March 2022.

While changing methodology and coverage prevent year-on-year comparisons for **Bangladesh**, parts of the country have had a food crisis since 2016, when residents in flood-affected districts faced food crisis conditions.

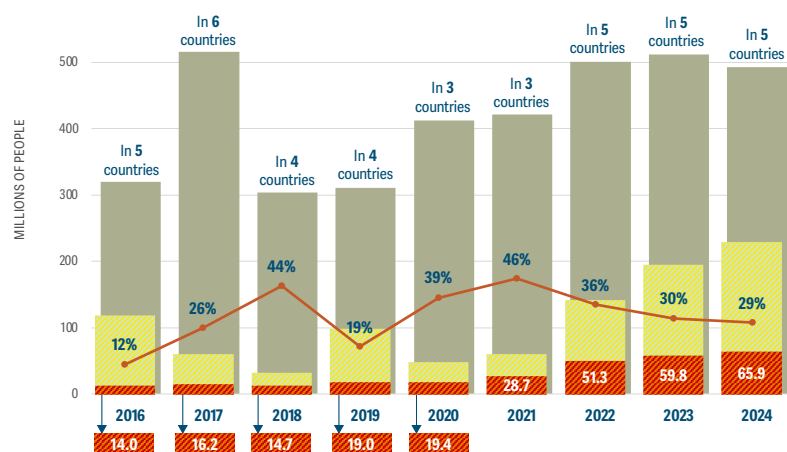
Since 2017, residents in Cox's Bazar district and Rohingya refugees have been selected as a food crisis in the GRFC, following the arrival of around 750 000 refugees from Rakhine state in **Myanmar** in 2017. Since 2023, the entire country has been selected due to an expanded IPC analysis, covering approximately 30 percent of the country and 23 percent of its population, focusing on areas

**FIG. 4.3 Highest food inflation rates, 2024** (compared with same month in 2023)



Sources: Afghanistan: National Statistics and Information Authority; Bangladesh: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics; Myanmar: no official data available since June 2022; Pakistan: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics; Timor-Leste: National Statistics Directorate.

**FIG. 4.4 Number and share of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in countries with food crises, 2016–2024**



Source: GRFC 2017–2025.

1+2 - None/Minimal and Stressed Phase 3+ - Crisis or worse or equivalent Share of population in Phase 3+ - Crisis or worse or equivalent Total population

prone to climatic disasters – monsoon floods, cyclones, tidal surges, landslides and riverbank erosion – as well as Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar. The scope expanded further to cover 40 districts and 55 percent of Bangladesh’s population in 2024.

Since 2017, selected areas in **Pakistan** have been included due to persistent high levels of acute food insecurity in flood-affected rural districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, as well as drought-affected areas in Balochistan and Sindh.

**Myanmar** has been selected for inclusion in every edition of the GRFC but 2020–2021, due to lack of data meeting GRFC technical requirements. Since 2023, escalating conflict has been driving widespread high levels of acute food insecurity.

The GRFC 2025 analysed **Timor-Leste** as a food crisis for the first time, although the country was

selected for inclusion in 2016 and 2020 but lacked data meeting GRFC technical requirements.

### Structural vulnerabilities underlie persistently high levels of acute food insecurity

The region is highly susceptible to the effects of climate change, with intensifying extreme weather events like floods, droughts and typhoons as well as frequent natural shocks like earthquakes. These events have devastated crops, livestock and agricultural assets, and disrupted supply chains. During the reporting period of the GRFC 2025, **Afghanistan** and **Myanmar** have been frequently and significantly affected. This is reflected in very high ranks for hazard and exposure for these countries as well as **Pakistan**, according to the INFORM Risk Index (INFORM, December 2024; OCHA, November 2024; UN Myanmar, September 2024).

This has compounding impacts for Asian economies and food security. Many economies in the region rely heavily on agriculture for livelihoods. Almost 47 percent of the workforce in **Afghanistan** and almost 46 percent in **Myanmar** is employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing. When their agricultural systems come under threat from climate change, food production and availability decline significantly, leading to supply disruptions and increased prices. Some countries are highly reliant on food imports, especially Afghanistan, exposing them to currency fluctuations and global food price variations.

Economic disparities and high unemployment rates, especially in rural areas, limit access to food, especially for poor, vulnerable households. The situation is exacerbated by low female workforce participation, contributing to poverty and food security.

In **Afghanistan**, the De Facto Authorities’ ban on women’s and girls’ participation in work and education remains unchanged and continues to exact severe economic consequences for Afghanistan and its citizens. It affects the flow of aid, restricts economic growth, and ultimately increases poverty and affects critical services like the health sector, causing negative repercussions for the entire population. Low female workforce participation also creates a substantial loss of income in **Pakistan** (24.3 percent), limiting households’ access to food (ILO, December 2024; WB, October 2024).

These structural vulnerabilities that undermine availability of and access to food across the region are also reflected in the UNDP HDI, which measures achievements in key dimensions of human development, and in which **Afghanistan**, **Pakistan**, **Timor-Leste** and **Myanmar** remain in the bottom quartile.

**FIG. 4.5 Selected structural vulnerability indicators by country**

	Cereal import dependency ratio (%)	Crop growing period affected by drought conditions (%)	GDP ranking	HDI global ranking (1–192)	INFORM Risk (0–10)	Share of agricultural, forestry and fishery employment (%)
AFGHANISTAN	42.5	21.4	137.0	182	7.7	46.6
BANGLADESH	15.7	20.7	32.0	129	5.8	36.9
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA	N/A	11.6	N/A	N/A	4.1	44.6
MYANMAR	-12.8	16.9	87.0	144	7.2	45.5
NEPAL	20.3	16.7	99.0	149	4.1	61.4
PAKISTAN	-9.5	21.6	44.0	146	6.4	36.4
TIMOR-LESTE	N/A	10.6	183.0	155	3.6	39.2

For descriptions of these indicators see Technical notes, page 170.

Sources: FAO (Cereal import dependency ratio); EC-JRC (Crop growing period affected by drought condition); WB (GDP ranking); UNDP (HDI Global Index); EC-JRC (INFORM Risk Index); FAO (Share of agricultural, forestry and fishery employment).





## Acute food insecurity outlook 2025

**Projections of acute food insecurity for countries with food crises in Asia were only available for Afghanistan, Myanmar and Pakistan where at least 40.9 million people, or 27 percent of the analysed population, were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025. In Myanmar, the number is likely to increase as the projection analysis was conducted before the March 2025 earthquake.**

Weather extremes are likely to remain a key driver of high levels of acute food insecurity across all countries with food crises in Asia, with the potential adverse impact on agricultural production compounding the fragile economic situation in the region. Conflict and subsequent displacement, and their impact on the economy, will likely remain key drivers in Myanmar.

La Niña-driven below-average rainfall and high temperatures from December 2024 to the end of April 2025 are likely to compound the effects on agriculture of exceptionally high global

average temperatures due to climate change. While conditions in most of the Asia region were generally favourable for dry and wet season rice harvesting, drier-than-normal conditions are forecast to impact production in **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan** (WMO, January 2025).

Modest economic growth is projected for the Asia region (except China) in 2025, with an increase from 4.7 percent in 2024 to 4.9 percent in 2025, benefiting from increasing domestic consumption, recovering goods exports and a tourism rebound (WB, October 2024).

However, projected below-average global economic growth, including economic contraction in China, compounded by the effects of re-emerging economic tension, is likely to curb these projections (IMF, January 2025; WB, October 2024). While global headline inflation is forecast to fall from 5.8 percent in 2024 to 4.4 percent in 2025, the decline has had limited impact on prices of much-needed imports in the region in 2024 (IMF, January 2025). The agricultural sector will remain the key factor for poverty reduction and the fight against

acute food insecurity in many of Asia's countries with food crises (FAO, May 2024).

Despite the announcement of a ceasefire to allow earthquake relief efforts, multiple attacks indicate that the conflict in **Myanmar** is likely to persist, including in areas affected by the earthquake (UN, March 2025). The damage and destruction from the earthquake are likely to delay preparations for elections, scheduled for November 2025 (UNHCR, December 2024). Persistent conflict would also deepen the economic crisis and compound the economic impact of the earthquake, disrupting agricultural production, trade and supply chains and increase already high inflation and currency depreciation.

The food crisis in **Myanmar** was already projected to sharply deteriorate from 14.4 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024 to 15.2 million people in 2025. This is primarily as a result of intensifying conflict eroding the already dire provision of basic services, causing large-scale displacement and disrupting agricultural production and livelihoods (OCHA, 2024 and 2025). The severe damage and destruction caused by the earthquake on 28 March 2025 is likely to drive a further increase beyond these levels. Some 2.8 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024 live in townships most affected by the earthquake. This includes over 500 000 people who were in Emergency (equivalent to IPC Phase 4) and in dire need of assistance (OCHA, April 2025; WFP, April 2025).

In **Afghanistan**, despite improvements compared with previous analyses primarily due to improved agricultural production, 14.8 million people (32 percent of the total population) were projected to face IPC Phase 3 or above during the lean season from November 2024 to March 2025 (IPC January, 2025). However, these projected improvements could be curbed by forecast below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures, which could have significant negative impacts on agriculture, water resources and food security. These conditions could impede barley and wheat production, strain irrigation for future planting

seasons and exacerbate water scarcity, particularly in historically vulnerable areas (Copernicus, December 2024; IPAD, December 2024). In addition, projected economic stagnation coupled with an expected shift to inflation in 2025 could further constrain households' access to food (WB, December 2024).

In **Pakistan**, 11 million people or 22 percent of the analysed population were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in 68 flood-affected rural districts across Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between November 2024 and March 2025. This includes 1.7 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, February 2025). The population coverage increased by 38 percent between the 2024 peak and the current 2025 analysis, from 36.7 million people to 50.8 million, covering 25 additional districts, so the 2024 peak and the 2025 projection are not comparable.

## ACUTE MALNUTRITION | Three countries faced a nutrition crisis – Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar). Myanmar was a nutrition concern.

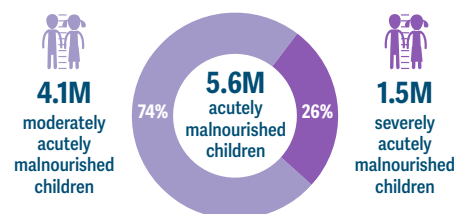
Both **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan** had areas classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) in 2024. In **Pakistan**, 78 percent of areas analysed in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh were projected to be classified in IPC AMN Phase 4 between October 2023 and January 2024 (IPC, October 2023). Comparability of severity with previous years is limited due to minimal overlap in the areas analysed.

In **Afghanistan**, 11 percent of analysed areas were classified in IPC AMN Phase 4 from June to October 2024 (IPC, January 2025). This was an improvement compared with the same period in 2022–2023, with the number of provinces in IPC AMN Phase 4 decreasing from 17 to four in 2024.

Data on acute malnutrition outcomes for **Bangladesh** (Cox's Bazar) in 2024 were unavailable. However, a 2023 survey indicated nutrition crisis conditions, with 15 percent of refugee children aged 6–59 months suffering from acute malnutrition in the Kutupalong refugee Mega Camps in Cox's Bazar (UNHCR-SENS, 2023).

In **Myanmar**, no acute malnutrition outcome data were available but contextual factors indicate a nutrition concern. A third of women of reproductive age and children aged 6–23 months did not consume a sufficiently diverse diet in April–June 2024 (IFPRI, November 2024). Increasing population displacement in conflict-affected areas, inadequate diets and poor care practices suggest increased humanitarian needs in the nutrition sector (OCHA-HNRP, December 2024).

FIG. 4.6 Number of children aged 6–59 months with acute malnutrition in three countries, 2024



Only SAM burden estimates were available for Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar).



**1.2M** pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in Afghanistan, 2024

No data were available on the nutrition situation of PBW in Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar) and Pakistan.

Sources: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2025; UNICEF, August 2023; Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023; UNICEF, August 2023.

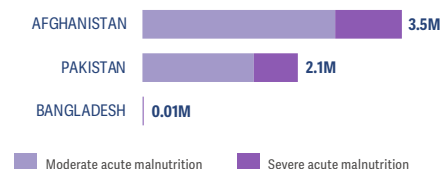
## Acute malnutrition trends, 2018–2024

**Pakistan** experienced persistently high levels of acute malnutrition between 2018 and early 2024 in analysed areas of Balochistan and Sindh provinces, with GAM prevalence consistently above 10 percent and reaching more than 30 percent in certain districts (IPC, October 2023).

In **Afghanistan**, data from 2018 indicated that 22 out of 34 provinces had a GAM prevalence equal to or above 10 percent (equivalent to IPC AMN Phase 3 or above), worsening to 33 out of 34 provinces classified in IPC AMN Phase 4 from November 2022 to April 2023, before improving in 2024–2025 (Nutrition Cluster, March 2019; IPC, January 2023; IPC, January 2025).

Refugee children in Cox's Bazar, **Bangladesh**, experienced a persistently high prevalence of acute malnutrition between 2019 and 2023. GAM prevalence increased from 11 percent in 2019 to 15.1 percent in 2023 (UNHCR-SENS, January 2024).

FIG. 4.7 Number of children aged 6–59 months with acute malnutrition, 2024



Sources: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2025; UNICEF, August 2023; Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

## Main contributing factors to nutrition crises in the region in 2024

### Basic causes

Flooding in 2024 in **Afghanistan**, **Bangladesh**, **Myanmar** and, to a lesser extent, **Pakistan** increased the risk of diseases, limited access to healthcare and humanitarian support, and exacerbated acute malnutrition. **Afghanistan** experienced severe flooding, while **Pakistan** continued to manage the severe repercussions of 2022 flooding, which destroyed sanitation facilities on a large scale (UNICEF, June 2024; IPC, November 2023). Heavy monsoon rains caused significant flooding in **Myanmar** and Cox's Bazar, **Bangladesh**, with major impacts on IDPs and refugees. People internally displaced by conflict in **Myanmar** and returnees to **Afghanistan** faced a particularly precarious nutrition situation due to lack of livelihoods, poor access to basic services and poor living conditions (ISCG, UNHCR, IOM, June 2024; UN, December 2024; IPC, January 2025).

### Underlying and immediate causes

In the two nutrition crises with IPC analyses – **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan** – there were 'very high' risk factors for acute malnutrition for all three pathways – food, care and services, and health. This indicates the complexity of nutrition vulnerability in the region. The indicators identified

as 'very high' risk in 2024 in at least one area in both crises were the low proportion of children aged 6–23 months consuming a minimum acceptable diet (less than 10 percent), the high prevalence of diarrhoea and/or cholera compared with previous years, and the low coverage of measles vaccinations (less than 65 percent).

## 2025 outlook

The magnitude and severity of acute malnutrition in **Afghanistan** is expected to remain at similar levels through May 2025, driven by increased disease incidence and reduced healthcare access during the December–March winter season (IPC, January 2025).

There are no IPC AMN projections or estimates for 2025 available for Pakistan, Myanmar or Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar).

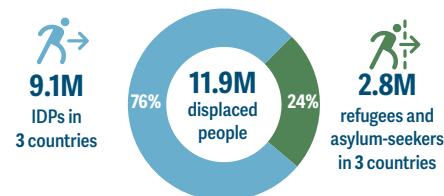
**DISPLACEMENT | Intensifying weather extremes, frequent natural disasters, conflict, and economic disparities and isolation remain a barrier to durable solutions for the large majority of the 12 million forcibly displaced people in countries with food crises in Asia.**

The effects of the decades-long conflict in **Afghanistan** and ongoing hostilities in **Myanmar** remain the key drivers of displacement in the region. Of its 12 million forcibly displaced people in countries with food crises, 76 percent (9.1 million people) were IDPs.

The largest numbers of IDPs were in **Afghanistan** (5.7 million people), followed by **Myanmar** (3.4 million people). Countries with food crises in the region also remained home to some of the largest, protracted refugee populations, with **Pakistan** (Afghan refugees) and **Bangladesh** (Rohingya refugees) among the ten countries that host the largest refugee populations in the world (UNHCR, December 2024).

The escalating conflict in **Myanmar** continues to drive rapidly increasing displacement. Between November 2023 and 2024, 1.3 million were newly displaced within the country, amounting to a total of 3.2 million since February 2021 (UNHCR, November 2024). Escalating conflict in Rakhine state triggered a new influx of Rohingya refugees into **Bangladesh**, with 65 000 new arrivals in Cox's Bazar district in 2024, straining the capacity of the camps, which already hosted 1 million Rohingya refugees. Major security and protection issues persist in Rohingya refugee camps, including abductions, killings, forced recruitments and gender-based violence, amid escalating violence among armed groups, on top of high exposure to natural hazards and limited livelihood opportunities (OCHA, January 2025).

FIG. 4.8 Total number of forcibly displaced people in countries with food crises, 2024



Source: IDMC, May 2024; IOM, February and October 2024; UNHCR, October 2024.

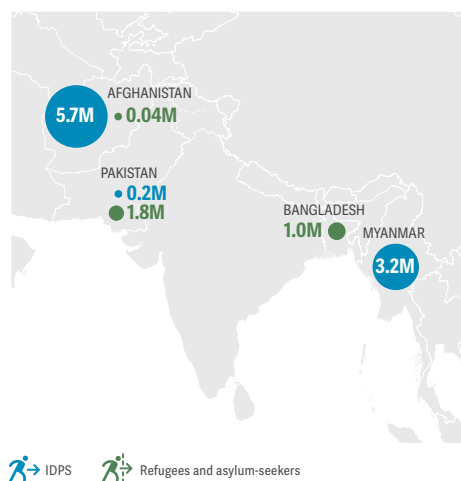
Almost 4 000 Rohingya refugees were relocated from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char Island in 2024, bringing the total to 37 000 individuals as of December 2024 – the majority of them children (UNHCR, January 2025). Despite some improvements in services and livelihoods, significant gaps in site management and shelter/non-food items, protection, health and nutrition persist, constraining access to essential services for vulnerable groups (OCHA, January 2025).

In 2024, over 1.2 million Afghans returned to Afghanistan – 1.1 million from Iran and 0.13 million from **Pakistan**, with smaller numbers returning from other countries (OCHA, December 2024). While there has been no major internal displacement in **Afghanistan** since 2022, IDP returns remain limited (0.23 million in 2024), highlighting the protracted nature of displacement in the country (UNHCR, December 2024). Returnees from abroad require assistance, especially for housing, financial support and food, and are hosted by communities already struggling to cope with existing vulnerabilities (UNHCR, November 2024).

## Acute food insecurity among displaced populations

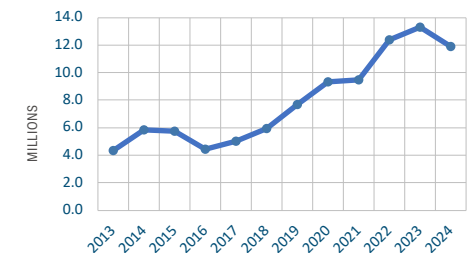
Following the largest funding shortfall since the beginning of the Rohingya response in 2018, new funding bolstered the provision of full food rations from August to December 2024 to Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. This resulted in a substantial decline of acute food insecurity among the Rohingya refugee population between May–September 2023 and October–December 2024. The number of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) decreased by 53 percent and the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) dropped from 0.24 million people to none (IPC, November 2024). Despite these improvements, about 0.3 million Rohingya refugees or 30 percent of this refugee population were still experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. Two-thirds of this population were in camps in Cox's Bazar and the remaining third were on Bhasan Char Island (IPC, November 2024).

MAP 4.2 Number of forcibly displaced people by country, 2024



Source: IDMC, May 2024; IOM, August 2024; UNHCR Nowcasted estimates, December 2024; UNHCR, October 2024.

FIG. 4.9 Total number of forcibly displaced people in countries with food crises, 2013–2024



Sources: 2013–2023: UNHCR, IDMC, UNRWA. 2024: UNHCR Nowcasted estimates December 2024, IOM.

## Acute malnutrition among displaced populations

Acute malnutrition among Rohingya refugee children in Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar) remained of high concern after a deteriorating situation since 2022. Levels of acute malnutrition have steadily increased since 2020, with the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children aged 6–59 months increasing from 11.4–11.9 percent in the Kutupalong and Mega Camps in 2020 to 15.4 percent in 2023 (UNHCR and WFP, July 2021; UNHCR, 2023). About 14 800 children were affected by severe acute malnutrition (UNICEF, March 2024; UNICEF, December 2024). No new data are available for 2024.

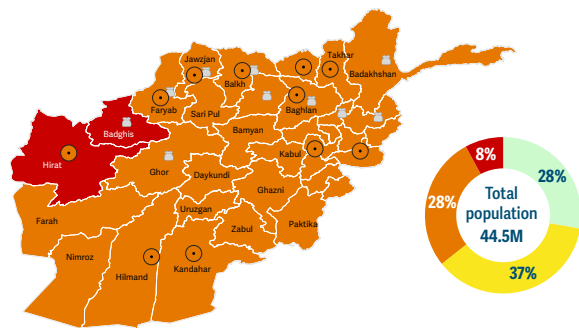


## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | A food crisis that continued to improve but remained severe, widespread and above pre-2021 levels.

PEAK 2024 (NOVEMBER 2023–MARCH 2024)

**15.8M** people or 36% of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Of them, around 3.6M were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during the lean season.

This improvement since the 2023 peak – when 6.1 million people faced IPC Phase 4 – is due to food and agriculture assistance, good harvests and reduced inflation.

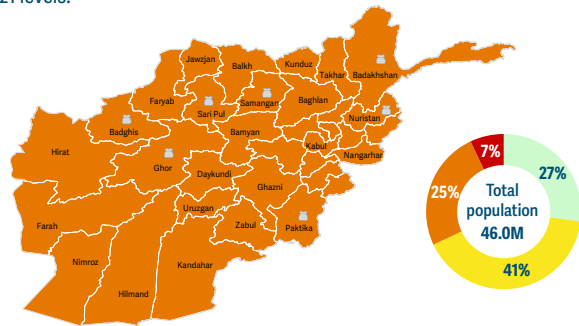


Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, December 2023.

PROJECTION 2025 (NOVEMBER 2024–MARCH 2025)

**14.8M** people or 32% of the total population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season. Of them, around 3.1M are projected to be in IPC Phase 4.

This marks a further improvement but still above pre-COVID-19 and 2021 levels.



Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2025.



DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2024–2025

**Economic shocks** Deflationary trends continued through 2024, resulting in decreasing prices, including for basic food commodities, but slowing economic growth (WFP, November 2024). Widespread unemployment continued to limit purchasing power, especially in urban areas, amid limited fiscal capacity to stimulate the economy. The expected shift of deflationary pressure to inflation in 2025 risks eroding household purchasing power, especially as the economy continues to stagnate (WB, December 2024).

**Weather extremes** El Niño-driven above-average precipitation from October 2023 to May 2024 resulted in above-average crop production in 2024 and reduced import requirements (FAO-GIEWS, November 2024). An unusual dry snap in January–February preceded flooding in all 34 provinces that destroyed and damaged shelter and infrastructure (OCHA, November

2024). La Niña conditions caused above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation from October 2024 to May 2025, especially in northern and central areas, straining agricultural productivity. Below-average snowpack and snow water volumes due to high temperatures adversely affected crop growth (FAO, November 2024).

**Conflict/insecurity** Overall levels of armed conflict remain low, but human rights violations against, and repression of, civil society, minorities, and women and girls, continue to deepen, also limiting their participation in the economy and their access to food (ACLED, November 2024; OHCHR, August 2024).

### DISPLACEMENT

**0.04M** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2024.

**5.7M** IDPs

Source: IDMC, May 2024.

### Peak numbers of people (in millions) by categories of acute food insecurity, 2016–2025



2019–2022 country population estimates are based on a different source (Flowminder).

Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG.

**A protracted food crisis** A low-income country, Afghanistan has been in all editions of the GRFC and is always one of the ten worst food crises in terms of numbers of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity. Since the 2021 political transition and the economic turmoil, which resulted in 22.8 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, households' capacity to meet basic needs has continued to improve.

## NUTRITION CRISIS | The nutrition situation improved but areas were still in Critical due to poor diets, diseases and low access to WASH.

PEAK 2024 (NOVEMBER 2024–MAY 2025)

**Out of 34 areas, 28 were classified in Serious or worse (IPC AMN Phase 3 or above).** Four – Hilmand, Kandahar, Nuristan and Paktika – were classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4). This is a marked improvement since the same period in 2022–2023, when 17 provinces were classified in IPC AMN Phase 4.



Sources: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2025.

ACUTE MALNUTRITION BURDEN (JUNE 2024–MAY 2025)

**3.5M** children aged 6–59 months

2.6M MAM

Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2025.

**1.2M** pregnant and breastfeeding women

0.9M SAM

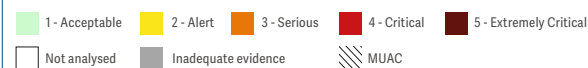
### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Only 6.8 percent of children aged 6–23 months met the minimum acceptable diet, ranging from 0.2 to 39.4 percent (IPC, January 2025). Fever, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection prevalence was higher than in 2023. The country suffered from significant measles and cholera outbreaks. Kandahar province recorded 60 percent of the country's polio cases (IPC, January 2025; WHO, January 2025).

Households had low levels of access to safe drinking water and water for household use. In half of the provinces, fewer than 60 percent had access to improved sanitation (IPC, January 2025). Drought-related water scarcity in Kandahar province

increased the spread of disease (UN, December 2024).

Access to health and nutrition services reduced in hard-to-reach areas, with 50 percent fewer mobile health and nutrition teams between January and September 2024 compared with 2023. More than 450 MAM treatment sites closed, with 635 000 children deprived of preventative rations from January to August 2024, increasing their nutrition vulnerability. Pregnant and breastfeeding women lacked support for optimal infant and young child feeding practices. Flooding further reduced access to health, especially in Nuristan, Hilmand and Paktika provinces (IPC, January 2025).



## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Weather extremes disrupted agricultural production, worsening acute food insecurity.

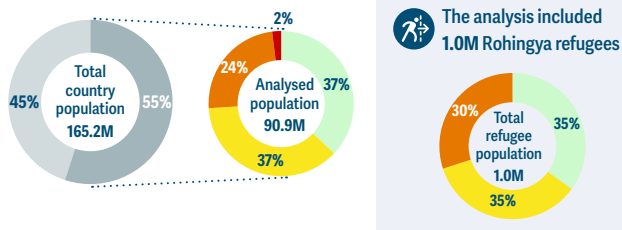
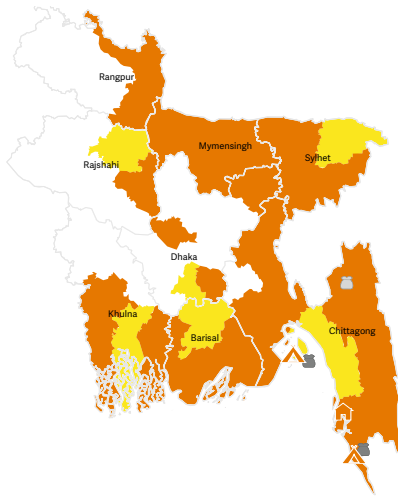
PEAK 2024 (OCTOBER–DECEMBER)

 **23.6M** people or 26% of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Of them, **1.6M** people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

 The analysis included the Rohingya refugee population. **0.3M** or 30% of them faced high levels of acute food insecurity.


Repeated flooding and storms pushed the peak to October–December 2024, instead of the lean season of April–September 2024. The IPC analysis has expanded since 2023 to cover flood-affected districts, explaining the sharp rise in the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

Comparable districts of Barishal, Khulna and Chattogram showed increased prevalence in high levels of acute food insecurity and those in Barishal division showed greater severity due to impacts of weather extremes. Flood-affected Kurigram and Sunamganj districts experienced the highest share of populations in IPC Phase 4, at 10 percent each.



Source: Bangladesh IPC TWG, November 2024.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2024–2025

 **Weather extremes** Cyclone Remal in May 2024 damaged over 60 000 hectares of crops in southern coastal districts, while flooding from July to October affected 19 million people, displacing over 700 000 (OCHA, September 2024; IPC, November 2024; IFRC, October 2024).

In Cox's Bazar, flooding from the cyclone along with landslides caused damage to agricultural lands and destruction of shelters in the camps (IPC, November 2024).

The mid-August floods disrupted food access, causing income losses for one-third of affected households, and disrupted the Aman season rice production, which accounts for nearly 40 percent of the country's annual rice production. Over half a million tonnes of rice were lost, mainly in the eastern part of the country (FAO-DIEM, November 2024; ASAP, August 2024).

 **Economic shocks** Rice prices rose by 16.6 percent between October 2023 and 2024. Wheat prices stabilized in this period, but remained above the four-year average (WFP, October 2024; FAO-FPMA, 2024). Continued inflationary pressure limited household purchasing power and reduced access to food (IPC, November 2024). Food inflation reached 12.7 percent and headline inflation 10.9 percent in October 2024 (IMF, 2024).

 **Conflict/insecurity** Ongoing conflict in Myanmar drove an additional 65 000 refugees to Cox's Bazar, creating tensions between refugees and host communities over competition in labour markets and access to agricultural land (UNHCR, January 2025).

### DISPLACEMENT


 **1.0M** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2024.

**A protracted food crisis** Bangladesh is a lower-middle-income country. Its Cox's Bazar district has been included in the GRFC since the second edition due to the arrival of around 750 000 refugees from Rakhine state in Myanmar in 2017. In 2023, an IPC analysis expanded coverage to approximately 23 percent of its population, focusing on areas prone to climatic disasters – monsoon floods, cyclones, tidal surges, landslides and riverbank erosion – as well as Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar. The scope expanded further to cover 40 districts and 55 percent of its population in 2024. Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to weather shocks, while continued conflict in Myanmar has prevented the safe and dignified return of Rohingya refugees.

## NUTRITION CRISIS | Among displaced populations in Cox's Bazar, 2023 data indicated a worsening nutrition situation.

PEAK 2023 (NO NEW DATA FOR 2024)

 In Kutupalong Mega Camps (31 unregistered camps) acute malnutrition prevalence was 15.4 percent, indicating a Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) situation in November 2023. The acute malnutrition prevalence in registered camps was 9.6 percent, indicating it was close to a Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) situation (UNHCR-SENS, January 2024).

This marks a deterioration since 2022, which was attributed to inadequate infant and young child feeding practices, with only 16.3 percent of children aged 6–23 months across all camps consuming a minimum acceptable diet.

In addition, diarrhoea levels were high, with 21.6 percent of children aged 6–59 months having experienced an episode within the two weeks prior to the survey.

In 2024, monsoon-related flooding reduced access to nutrition services and damaged sanitation infrastructure (UN RC Bangladesh, September 2024). Waterborne disease outbreaks and a lack of adequate health facilities contributed to a challenging nutrition situation (UNICEF, March 2024).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Expanding conflict, economic shocks and flooding drove very high levels of acute food insecurity.

PEAK 2024 (SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER)


 **14.4M** people or 25% of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Of them, **2.3M** were in Emergency (equivalent to IPC Phase 4).


 Of the total, **1.3M** or **40%** of IDPs faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

This represents a marked deterioration since the same period in 2023, driven by the impact of intensified conflict and widespread floods. Acute food insecurity also increased in areas less affected by conflict.

Source: Pre-analysis conducted under the HNRP, as a basis for generating results for the 2025 projection used by the Myanmar HNRP 2025.

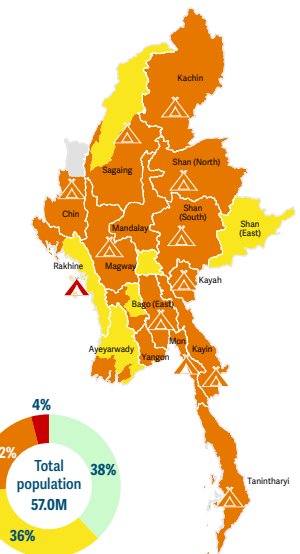
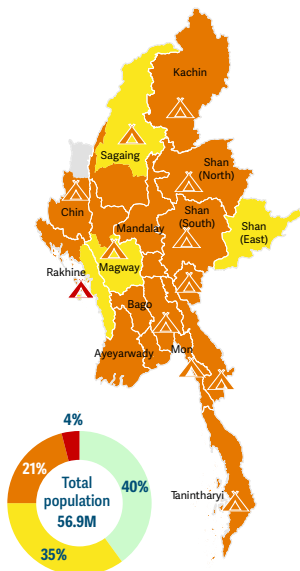
PROJECTION 2025 (JUNE–AUGUST)\*

 **15.2M** people or 27% of the total population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season. Of them, **2.3M** were in Emergency (equivalent to IPC Phase 4).


 Of the total, **1.8M** or **43%** of IDPs face high levels of acute food insecurity.


This projection, which accounts for the lean season, monsoon floods, conflict, displacement and reduced humanitarian access, pre-dates the March 2025 earthquake and does not account for a likely worsening as a result of the destruction.

\* The projection period differs from the period defined as peak in 2024.  
Source: Myanmar HNRP 2025.



DRIVERS OF THE FOOD CRISIS 2024–2025

 **Conflict/insecurity** Conflict further intensified across the country, with Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states most affected by the fighting (OCHA, December 2024). Hostilities were characterized by an escalation of systematic atrocities, including targeted attacks against civilians, and led to near collapse of critical public infrastructure (OHCHR, 2024; IIMM, September 2024; HNRO 2025, December 2024). Displacement continued to increase, with 870 000 people newly displaced in 2024, resulting in a total of 3.2 million people displaced since February 2021 (UNHCR, December 2024). Despite the announcement of a ceasefire to allow earthquake relief efforts, new attacks indicate that the conflict is likely to persist with dire humanitarian consequences (OHCHR, April 2025).

 **Economic shocks** Hostilities severely impacted access and availability of food. Insecurity and movement restrictions led to significant increases in prices of food, fuel and agricultural inputs, and market disruptions (HNRP, December

2024). Farmers were displaced away from production sites, reduced planting areas, and leading to asset losses. The average basic food basket price increased by 57 percent between August 2023 and August 2024, with the highest increase, 108 percent, in Rakhine (WFP, August 2024). Losses in the industrial livelihoods worsened the situation, limiting households' income.

 **Weather extremes** Severe flooding and landslides in August and September 2024 in the northwest, southeast and Rakhine state caused widespread destruction of crops, farmlands and livestock. For IDPs living in remote areas, floods were a major factor in limiting access to food (HNRP, December 2024; WFP, September 2024; OCHA, September 2024).

DISPLACEMENT

 **3.2M** IDPs

Source: UNHCR, October 2024.


NUTRITION CONCERN

ACUTE MALNUTRITION BURDEN (JANUARY–DECEMBER 2024)

 **0.4M** children aged 6–59 months

0.4M MAM      0.07M SAM

Source: Myanmar HNO 2024, December 2023.

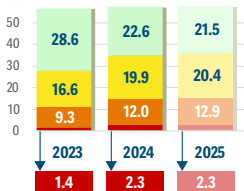
 In the absence of data for the nutrition situation in Myanmar in 2024, the country was classified as being of nutrition concern, as it had populations facing levels of acute food insecurity equivalent to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (OCHA-HNRP, December 2024) and a 'very high' rating on the INFORM Severity Index (INFORM, October 2024).

Nutrition data were limited. Displacement in the most severely conflict-affected areas left many in informal camps with inadequate diets and poor care practices, driving humanitarian needs in nutrition (UN, December 2024). About 57 percent of women of reproductive age consumed a minimally diverse diet in Rakhine state in April–June 2024 (IFPRI, November 2024). Many people in camps were without access to safe water and sanitation facilities resulting in an increase in disease outbreaks. Acute watery diarrhoea and cholera outbreaks occurred in Rakhine, Yangon, Ayeyarwaddy, Mandalay and Mon (WHO, December 2024; OCHA-HNRP, June 2024).

Many people had minimal or no access to health services and limited humanitarian support, including ready-to-use therapeutic food. Furthermore, those living in non-Special Advisory Council-controlled areas did not have access to vaccines (WHO, December 2024).

Myanmar was one of the world's most underfunded HNRPs, with only 24 percent of the nutrition needs in the HNRP funded in 2024. This has led to IDPs and those suffering from severe acute malnutrition being prioritized for support (OCHA-HNRP, June 2024, December 2024).

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2023–2025



Source: Myanmar HNRP.

**History of the food crisis** A lower-middle-income country, Myanmar has been included in seven out of nine editions of the GRFC. A change in methodology does not allow direct comparison of numbers from before 2023. Since the February 2021 military takeover, conflict has led to mass displacement and underpinned high food inflation and loss of agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods as well as food production capacity.

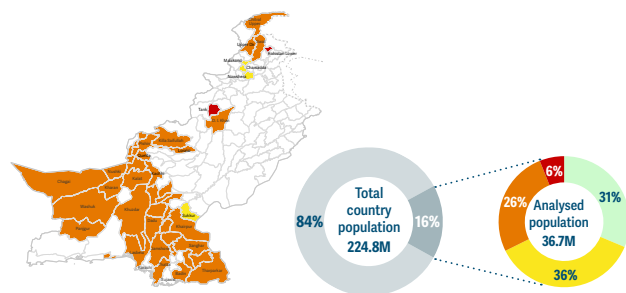


## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | The situation was better than the previous year's lean season but weather extremes continued to affect livelihoods.

### PEAK 2024 (NOVEMBER 2023–JANUARY 2024)

**11.8M** people or 32% of the analysed population were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 43 rural districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces during the winter lean season. Of them, 2.2M were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The 2024 peak remains the same as the previous GRFC, as no new peak data were available. However, the prevalence of high levels of acute food insecurity was expected to decrease to 24 percent through June 2024 and 22 percent by the end of November 2024 (IPC, May 2024).

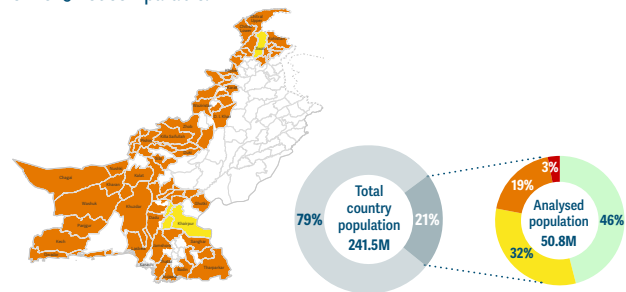


Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

### PEAK 2025 (NOVEMBER 2024–MARCH 2025)

**11.0M** people or 22% of the analysed population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 68 flood-affected rural districts across Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This includes 1.7 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, February 2025). The population coverage increased by 38 percent between the 2024 peak and 2025 current analysis, from 36.7 million people to 50.8 million people, with 25 additional districts, making the 2024 peak and the projection for 2025 not comparable.



Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, February 2025.

1 - None/Minimal 2 - Stressed 3 - Crisis 4 - Emergency 5 - Catastrophe/Famine  
Population analysed Population not analysed Total population

### DRIVERS OF THE FOOD CRISIS 2024–2025

**Weather extremes** Total 2024 cereal output was well above average levels due to adequate and well-distributed precipitation as well as large areas planted. Rice production exceeded the five-year average and wheat was at record levels, while maize reached almost average harvest levels (FAO-GIEWS, September 2024).

However, heavy rains during the July–September monsoon season resulted in flooding and landslides in parts of Balochistan and Sindh provinces, causing crop losses and damage to housing and agricultural infrastructure.

In addition, the enduring effects of the 2022 floods in parts of Balochistan and Sindh, compounded by subsequent extreme weather events in 2023 and early 2024, continued to strain livelihoods and drive poverty, especially in the rural northwestern provinces (IPC, May 2024).

**Economic shocks** Food inflation had fallen to 0.3 percent by December 2024, down from double digits at the beginning of 2024 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, December 2024). Above-average production helped to ease consumer prices, from double digits throughout 2023 and until mid-2024 to 4.1 percent year-on-year headline inflation in December 2024 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, December 2024). While the economic recovery of 2024, after the 2022–2023 political and economic crisis, is expected to continue in 2025, low wages and employment are projected to keep poverty rates high (WB, October 2024).

### DISPLACEMENT

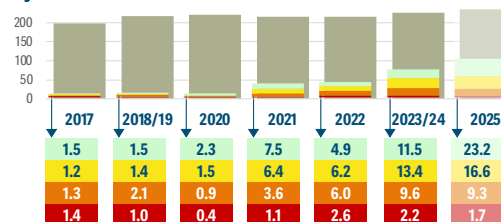
**1.8M** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2024.

**0.2M** IDPs

Source: IOM, August 2024.

### Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2017–2025



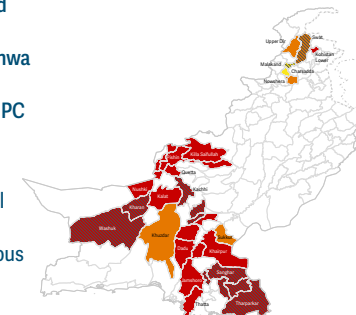
**History of the food crisis** A lower-middle-income country, Pakistan is susceptible to weather extremes, including floods and drought, especially in the provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. The geographical coverage of IPC analyses has varied but focused primarily on Sindh in 2017–2018, and Balochistan and Sindh in 2019 and 2021. Major floods affected all three provinces in 2022, with the highest share of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity reaching 49 percent in 16 districts of Balochistan and Sindh.

## NUTRITION CRISIS | High levels of acute malnutrition in early 2024 are attributable to multiple factors, including the lingering effects of flooding.

### PEAK 2024 (OCTOBER 2023–JANUARY 2024)

**Thirty of the 32 analysed areas in parts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces were classified in Serious or worse (IPC AMN Phase 3 or above).**

Of these, 12 districts in Sindh and Balochistan were in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4). Only four districts overlap with the previous 2021–2022 analysis, and they remained in IPC AMN Phase 4.



Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

### ACUTE MALNUTRITION BURDEN 2024 (MARCH 2023–JANUARY 2024)

**2.1M** children aged 6–59 months

1.5M MAM

0.6M SAM

Source: Pakistan IPC TWG, October 2023.

### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Children's diets were of insufficient quality and quantity, exacerbated by acute food insecurity which worsened during the winter months (December–February) when food prices are higher, livelihood opportunities are restricted and access to markets is reduced.

A high prevalence of acute malnutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding women was accompanied by a high proportion of children being born with a low birth weight, particularly in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces (IPC, October 2023).

Levels of diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria were high, worsening during the winter months.

Inadequate coverage of sanitation facilities and safe drinking water was a significant concern, partly following the heavy monsoon floods in 2022. These floods damaged most water systems in Sindh and, to a lesser extent, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan (UN, December 2023).

Across all three provinces, poor healthcare-seeking behaviours and blocked roads limited access to healthcare (IPC, October 2023).


Insufficient funds also limited nutrition service coverage (Nutrition Cluster, June 2024). In 2025 climate shocks and acute food insecurity risk further aggravated already high acute malnutrition levels (UNICEF, December 2024).

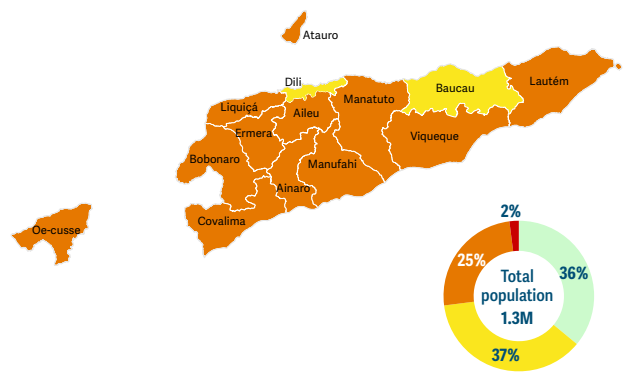
1 - Acceptable 2 - Alert 3 - Serious 4 - Critical 5 - Extremely Critical  
Not analysed Inadequate evidence MUAC

# Timor-Leste

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Successive weather shocks and food inflation drove the food crisis.

### PEAK 2024 (MAY–SEPTEMBER)


 **0.4M** people or 27% of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity during the post-harvest season. Of them, **0.02M** were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). This marked a worsening situation since the same period in 2023, when 0.26 million people or 20 percent of the population faced high levels of acute food insecurity, and since the 2024 lean season due to food inflation and drought-like conditions.




Source: Timor-Leste IPC TWG, February 2024.

**History of the food crisis** A low-income country, Timor-Leste is included in the GRFC for the first time. Acute food insecurity has gradually worsened since 2022, when 300 000 or 22 percent were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season (IPC, February 2023). The main drivers of this deterioration include the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, high food prices and the floods of 2021 and 2022. These challenges are exacerbated by the country's high exposure and vulnerability to shocks, alongside inadequate coping and adaptive capacities.

### DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2024–2025

 **Weather extremes** El-Niño-driven below-average rainfall and high temperatures significantly affected agricultural production as well as livelihoods, reducing food availability and access to food for many households.

Drought-like conditions were followed by La Niña-induced above-average precipitation, creating favourable conditions for the secondary season between November 2024 and January 2025. However, overall cereal production was estimated to be almost 20 percent lower than the recent five-year average – with maize declining by 14 percent and rice by 23 percent (FAO-GIEWS, November 2024).

 **Economic shocks** Reduced agricultural production and high costs of production and transport drove up food prices and constrained many households' purchasing power, as 70 percent of the population depend on agriculture for their income (IPC, February 2024).

This was further compounded by export restrictions by India and reduced rice yields across Asia due to weather extremes, which led to near-record regional rice prices. Maize prices also reached very high levels. With about 60 percent of its cereal needs being met by other Asian countries, this import-reliant country faced an 11 percent year-on-year increase in rice prices in December (WFP, December 2024).

1 - None/Minimal   2 - Stressed   3 - Crisis   4 - Emergency   5 - Catastrophe/Famine

# Additional country of concern

CONTENTS

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Selected for inclusion but did not have data that met GRFC requirements.



Selected for inclusion in the GRFC 2025 but lacks data meeting GRFC technical requirements.

## Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a low-income country, has been selected for inclusion in all editions of the GRFC because it is monitored by FAO-GIEWS. However, it has always been a data gap due to lack of information on acute food insecurity.

Again in 2024, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not published data on food security, nutrition, food production, public distribution systems, food prices or inputs.

Based on remote sensing and weather data, early seasonal rains were average to above average, with very high rainfall in July leading to cumulative precipitation amounts of up to 80 percent above average (FAO,

August 2024), particularly in the main cereal-producing province of North Pyongan.

Maize harvesting ended in September, and by October rice harvesting was underway in favourable conditions. The flooding in North Pyongan did not significantly reduce vegetation conditions at the provincial level, and impacts were expected to remain localized (GEOGLAM, October 2024).